

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 443

By Hensley

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Daniel McKenzie Speer  
of Pulaski.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Daniel McKenzie Speer; and

WHEREAS, Dan Speer was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born in Pulaski in 1949, Mr. Speer was the son of Dr. John and Johanna Speer; he attended Columbia Military Academy and received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Middle Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, Dan Speer's lifelong service to Giles County began in 1984, when he was elected a Pulaski city alderman; he was also a local businessman who operated an insurance company in Pulaski; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Speer was elected mayor of Pulaski in 1990, an office he held for twenty-one years; under his leadership, the city charter was completely revised, an ambitious network of trails and sidewalks was created, a second industrial park was developed, the Sam Davis Park and stadium were restored, and public housing was renovated; and

WHEREAS, his leadership stood out when white supremacist groups began to descend upon Pulaski; Mr. Speer led a massive brotherhood movement in the city that engaged civic cooperation across racial, social, and economic lines, demonstrating a united front from the people of Pulaski against the threat as the whole country took notice. Pulaski was named an All-American City by the National Civic League, and Dan Speer was recognized as small town Mayor of the Year by the National Association of Towns and Townships; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, Mr. Speer stepped down from political office and became Executive Director of the Pulaski/Giles County Economic Development Commission, a position he held until shortly before his passing; during his tenure, Giles County dramatically recovered from economic recession to prosperity as the county enjoyed unprecedented job growth, the unemployment rate was cut in half, and broadband internet service was made available for the first time; and

WHEREAS, Dan Speer was an active and devout member of First Presbyterian Church, which he served faithfully for many years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Speer was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Dan Speer enjoyed the loving companionship of Brenda Sanders Speer, his wife of thirty-four years, and he adored his pets Lucy, Mac, Ozzie, and Guy; and

WHEREAS, he is lovingly remembered by his brothers and sister-in law, John Speer and Frank and Joanne Speer; his sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, Nancy and George Manthey, Sue and Jeff Braly, and Beth Speer; and several nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews, as well as his many friends, associates, and church family members; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Speer was preceded in death by his parents, his sister, Mary Toby Speer Perkins, and his brothers, Michael Speer and Steve Speer; and

WHEREAS, Dan Speer leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Daniel McKenzie Speer, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Daniel McKenzie Speer.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.